

## PICTURESQUE MEXICO

## III.—The Silver of Guanajuato.

By Frederic J. Haskin.

No region in all the world since time began has produced an amount of silver that can compare with that which has come out of Guanajuato. No other area in America can today boast the possessions of as many millions of dollars as this silver-mining city. In addition to which, it throws down the gauntlet to any rival on the western hemisphere which aspires to an atmosphere, a color scheme, which will transport the beholder to the Holy Land and cause him to believe that he is gazing upon the scenes of biblical history.

All of these circumstances and others lend to this mid-Mexican city a fascination that is equaled by few American rivals. This treasure vault of the ages is situated in the very center of all Mexico. Two-thirds of the way from El Paso to Mexico City, it is pitched into a steep canyon at an elevation of 7,000 feet. Fantastically it scrambles up the precipitous sides of a canyon, attempting to find abiding places for its 40,000 souls upon these steep, but not too rugged, slopes. With temperaments that are instinctively artistic, the builders of the town have made the most of the natural tilt of the building stone hereabout, and every house works into a scheme of most delicate tintings of color. The blue and white is usual in this effect, and so readily may it be seen because the precipitous topography of the town is so instantly impressed.

But this city of color serves no other purpose than to act as the clearing-house of a cluster of silver.

Greatest Silver Output in World. Mines such as found at any other spot on earth. From these mines are said to have been taken, during the years that have intervened since the first Spanish adventures learned of their fabulous wealth, a billion and a half dollars. No other silver-producing region has approached this sum, and there is a question if any city has produced any sort of mineral wealth to this amount.

The Spanish doubloons and pieces of eight that formed the inspiration in the stories of piracy were largely made of silver from Guanajuato. At the point of its highest development, much of the wealth that maintained it came from three great mines located here and worked for the profit of the crown. These mines kept Spanish governments afloat for centuries and are still producing.

It is because the Guanajuato silver mines have been producing for so long that they have chalked up to their account a sum of money that is so vast. It was in 1545 that the Spaniards found out that the Atlixco were taking silver from the slopes of these lofty canyons. For 367 years the production has gone steadily forward, and through war and peace just as it is continuing unabated during the present series of revolutions. To haul the silver that has come out of the mines of Guanajuato it would require a train of freight cars ten miles long.

The stories that are told about Guanajuato of the many fortunes that have been made and the

Wealth Rivals Yarns of Fiction. A hundred years ago, for instance, two miles in the Las Lajas district were yielding 4,000,000 ounces of silver every year. A poor prospector named Zambrano developed a claim, and frantically attempted to spend money as fast as it came in, frequenting the capitals of Europe in the process, yet died with \$60,000. One of these men sent the king \$2,000,000 as a Christmas present, and asked permission to build a gallery of gold silver around his Guanajuato house, which request was denied him. The mine owners at one time had to be prohibited by the authorities from scattering silver coin in the streets of the city, as they were hoarding too large a percentage of the community.

There is today a Mexican who owns one of the richest mines in the world, of which he has built great steel domes. He does not operate it regularly, but merely opens it up when he is in need of money, and sends in workmen to replenish his coffers. Pedro Alvarado, an Indian, and once a peon, is today one of the wealthiest men in the world, and through a silver mine he discovered in this district. He has built fifty churches and a hundred schools. At one time he distributed \$2,000,000 among the poor. For some years ago, attracted a good deal of attention by his silver mine, he was the national debt of Mexico. When the figures were presented, however, he found that even he was unequal to the task.

These floods of silver have mostly come despite crude and unscientific methods. The silver is found largely in the hardest of quartz, and the methods of getting this stone out of the ground are of the most primitive. This is a fact that is not generally known. When the Spaniards came they found that the Indians would not touch the silver wall of this quartz, would get it very hot, and would then throw cold water on it. The brittle quartz would then shatter into pieces, as will a piece of glass under the same circumstances. Great quantities of ore have for centuries been taken out in this way.

The patio method of extracting the silver from this ore was another interesting process employed at Guanajuato. Under this method the ore was reduced to a powder between great rollers. Water was added with it, and the whole composed in the form of a thick mud, into a patio, where it was a lake two feet deep. Mules were driven about in this mud. Quicksilver and blue vitriol were added to the mud, and the mules continued the mixing process. Under this method the quicksilver takes up the silver which it is then possible to recover and little is lost. There was the objection that the vitriol ate into the legs of the mules and disabled them, but there was no humane society in Guanajuato at that time.

Other methods allowed greater quantities of silver to get away, and Americans and Europeans have of late made great fortunes in working over the tailings of the old mines. There is told the story that some young American of the town had been built of mud bricks made from these tailings. One day he bought these houses and made a fortune out of the silver that was in their walls.

Of recent years much foreign capital has been brought into this field, and modern methods stamp mills and smelters have been built. There was a time when ore must yield a hundred ounces of silver to the ton else the Spaniards would not work it, but now low-grade ores may be handled. Spain also enslaved great numbers of Indians, and these toiled up endless lad-

## EMIL SEIDEL PREDICTS WARS WILL CONTINUE

Says Present Conflict Is Forerunner of Many if Capitalism Is Not Controlled.

That the European conflict, instead of being the last great war, may be regarded as the forerunner of many great struggles unless capitalism is controlled, was predicted by Emil Seidel, former socialist mayor of Milwaukee, Wis., in an address last night before the socialist party of the District at Pythian Temple.

Mr. Seidel drew a pessimistic picture of labor conditions and attributed the war that is costing thousands of lives abroad to the efforts of the trusts to gain control of the international markets.

He severely arraigned the Wilson administration for its failure to break with capitalism and charged it with being "afraid of big business." The administration, he declared, is not capable of meeting the situation that confronts it.

Mr. Seidel insisted that present business depression in this country is similar to the great panics of the past despite the claim of the administration that it is a psychological depression and not really justified by conditions.

Remedial Measures Urged.

The speaker urged a number of remedial measures, among them the establishment of free employment bureaus all over the United States, the forma-

tion of market bureaus to regulate the labor market and the direct employment of labor by municipalities instead of through contractors. He declared that cities and states can aid greatly in improving conditions by employing their own labor on improvement projects which they are authorized to undertake.

The only hope of the laboring man to organize and gain possession of the means of production, Mr. Seidel said. At the conclusion of his address the speaker was asked a number of questions by persons in the audience, a number of whom signified their intention of affiliating with the socialist party.

VESEL IN DISTRESS AT SEA.

Five Men Row 450 Miles to Sumner Assistance.

Notified of the vessel's need of aid by five men of the crew, who rowed 450 miles to shore in a small boat, the coast guard cutter McCulloch has started to search the Pacific for the steam schooner O. M. Clark. The schooner, with broken propeller shaft, is drifting helplessly. Trade winds may carry her in any direction, it is stated, and the coast guard cutter's quest is indefinite.

There is shortage of provision and of water aboard the vessel, and the members of the crew who landed at San Diego, Cal., after an exhaustive journey over the open sea. They report the plight of vessel and crew is extreme.

The Clark was on her way from Hilo, Hawaii, to San Francisco. She is of 500 tons displacement and was built in 1913.

Russian Attaché Sees President.

President Wilson yesterday received Commander Illirion Mishoff, the new naval attaché of the Russian embassy here, who was accompanied by a number of his staff. Col. W. W. Hart, the President's military aid, attended the ceremony in full dress uniform.

## WOMAN AND MAN INDICTED ON MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE

True Bills Found Against Ralph A. Carter and Fannie Hill, Colored. Other Indictments.

Ralph A. Carter, eighteen years old, was indicted today for manslaughter in causing the death of Frank M. Mann, a colored man, who was killed at 15th street and Ohio avenue, and the accused, it is claimed, struck Mann with a pair of shears, inflicting a wound which resulted in death. It was claimed the men were teasing the boy.

Fannie Hill, colored, was also charged with manslaughter in an indictment returned by the grand jury to Chief Justice Covington. The accused struck her niece, Geneva Ward, with a bottle across the wrist, it is alleged. An artery was severed and the younger woman bled to death. The tragedy occurred December 22 at 326 D street southwest.

An indictment charging a violation of

the postal laws was reported against Lucius Lewis. It is charged that he stole a mail bag from a collection wagon at 1st street and Virginia avenue southwest February 4 last. The sack was recovered in the vicinity, with the contents rifled.

Others indicted and the crimes of which they are accused are:

William Bird, pandering; James L. H. Wood, forgery and uttering; Moses McCalley, bringing stolen property into the District of Columbia; John Edmonds, forgery; John Martin, Samuel Martin and George Berry, attempted robbery; John Reynolds, Robert Lynn and Dewey Brown, depredation on private property; Ernest Knott and George Tirveney, attempted robbery; George Tirveney, housebreaking and larceny; Howard Shorter and Raymond Scott, larceny from the United States; Charles Mulholland, robbery; James E. Jackson, carnal knowledge; James Carr and Elmer McConchie, joy riding (two cases); Harold C. Scott, forgery; Myrtle Kates, grand larceny.

U. S. Rifles Go to Clubs.

All Krag-Jorgensen rifles, long since taken by the United States and stored in government arsenals, are being distributed to "government rifle clubs" in the various states, which were organized under an act of Congress, it is announced by the National Rifle Association of America. The act of distributing the rifles to the clubs has been turned over by the government to the association.

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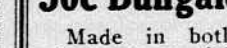
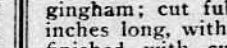
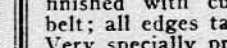
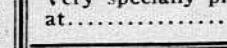








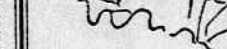




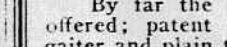
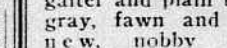
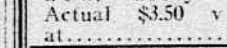




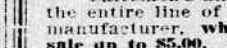
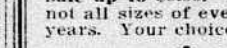




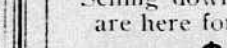




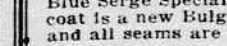



















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